

A Study of Three Columbus Public Parks and Their Usage in Winter

Presented in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for
Graduation with Honors Research Distinction in City and Regional Planning
in the Knowlton School
The Ohio State University

May 2019

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INTRODUCTION.

Public space is an asset that every community should (and often does) take advantage of. However, in cities that experience winter months with cold temperatures and snow, are their public spaces really being used to their full potential during those times? Cold temperatures and limited daylight are perhaps not ideal conditions for utilizing or promoting public space upon first thought, sure, but-- couldn't they be? Public spaces help both cities and people prosper. They can be economic stimulants and draws for both members of the immediate surrounding communities and beyond. They can provide places for people to rest, to meet, to eat, exercise, and more. The loss of the usage of these spaces for the span of the winter months is unnecessary and detrimental to the health of both the city and the people who inhabit it.

The purpose of this study was to observe the design and the programming of events by the city or community in Columbus neighborhoods of different socioeconomic status and immediate surrounding area, and see how these factors impacted and affected usage of the space during winter. It was done using an observational research method, visiting each specified park during the week during the daytime and the weekend during both the daytime and the evening. Based off of the results of these observational visits, an additional case study and further research was conducted on other cities with established winter programming and design to provide examples that may be considered for future designs, alterations, and events at the parks in Columbus.

Parks were chosen as the public spaces for this study due to the abundance of public park space in Columbus, which allowed for control over the parks chosen, and to

make sure they fit the criteria for the focus of the question being investigated-- being located in neighborhoods of different socioeconomic status as well as having varying immediate surrounding areas. Further, because the study was conducted during the winter months, the opportunity that parks present as public spaces is increased, as other forms of public space such as sidewalks and smaller, paved plazas can become icy and may require salting and shoveling. The green space of parks, contrastingly, does not warrant this same need, and while sidewalks through the park may need shoveled, the presence of ice does not present as large a problem, as the immediate surrounding area of grass is far less dangerous than that of a street. The cities chosen for the case study were of a range of sizes compared to Columbus, and in similar or colder climates.

This study was conducted as a preliminary investigation into what is going on in Columbus public space in the wintertime. Because the timeline of the study was short--- two and a half months-- it could not account for the spaces during the other seasons, nor throughout years, to also note effects of climate change. Future studies should take into account what these public spaces are like in the other seasons, as well, in order to compare how much the climate and weather are affecting usage. Public perception of winter is also something that must be taken into account-- design and event programming can only do so much. Some people do not enjoy the cold, and will never, so personal preferences much be acknowledged when considering how many people are using outdoor public spaces in the wintertime. In future research, efforts should be made to interview residents of the area to see if there is a general consensus on how

people feel about being outside in winter/winter time in general/what the parks are like (to them) in the winter-- perhaps also in comparison to summer, in order to see how much the difference in season affects people's perceptions.

The case study portion of this paper is not to be taken as exact recommendations for Columbus parks, but rather as a showcase of cities and parks that are using winter to their advantage-- it is meant to offer a different way of thinking about winter and public space.

LITERATURE REVIEW.

Several observational studies have been conducted on public space. Jan Gehl's book, "How to Study Public Life" and William H. Whyte's "The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces" both describe in-depth their public space analysis procedures. The topic of public space itself has been heavily studied through more than just observational research as well-- how it affects cities and people financially, mentally, and physically has been looked at at many different scales and locations. Most literature looks at public spaces during the summer months-- few studies have been conducted solely looking at winter weather; one specifically that I will mention, however, compared public parks in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada during the winter months. Further, the book, "Northern Cityscape" by Norman Pressman provided much insight into the qualities of productive winter public spaces. This literature review will provide information on public space, and how it is connected to placemaking, economics, physical and mental health, and climate. It will also go more into depth on Jan Gehl, William H. Whyte, and Norman

Pressman, and their contributions to observational public space research and designing for winter.

Public Space Defined

What exactly public space *is* can vary from person to person and their individual ideas. However, for the purpose of this study, I will be using a loose definition from Frank Gaffikin, Malachy Mceldowney, and Ken Sterrett's "Creating Shared Public Space in the Contested City: The Role of Urban Design":

...in reality, there is no simple demarcation between the 'public' and 'private' realms. As social beings, people seek both communalism and privacy, and planning 'public' space needs to pay heed to this balance. Iveson (2007) summarizes the distinction between these two models: Put simply, topographical models of public space use 'public' to denote spaces of sociability in the city where one's actions are visible to others, while procedural models of public space use 'public' to denote spaces where one may take part in collective discussions about common interests and issues.¹

Additionally, Jan Gehl defines public life as "be[ing] understood in the broadest sense as everything that takes place between buildings, to and from school, on balconies, seated, standing, walking, biking, etc. It is everything we can go out and observe happening – far more than just street theatre and café life."² Using this definition, public space can be understood as where all of these things can take place.

¹ Gaffikin, Frank, Malachy Mceldowney, and Ken Sterrett. "Creating Shared Public Space in the Contested City: The Role of Urban Design." *Journal of Urban Design* 15, no. 4 (2010): 493-513. doi:10.1080/13574809.2010.502338.

² Gehl, Jan, Birgitte Svarre, and Karen Ann. Steenhard. *How to Study Public Life*. Washington: Island Press, 2013

Public Space, Placemaking, and Economics:

While not the main focus of this study, it is important to note the economic benefits of public space in cities. The Trust for Public Land's economic analysis in Long Island "revealed that the state's parks and open space provide a \$2.74 billion annual economic benefit to local governments and taxpayers, and that conservation of Long Island's parks and open space is eight times less costly than new residential development."³ Public spaces provide places for people of all economic backgrounds, but the areas around these spaces often become ideal for developers and businesses, as the public space has the potential to draw visitors from both the surrounding area as well as from outside the community. These spaces also have significant placemaking abilities that can draw people to them. For example, ArtPrize, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, makes use of the whole city to display different artists' works, and, during the nineteen days the event spans, draws over 100,000 people to the city. The businesses around these spaces benefit from the increased population during the event, but the effects last longer than the event itself, as residents who discover new shops and restaurants due to ArtPrize continue to visit throughout the year.⁴

A pilot study conducted by Keith Davies, a graduate student at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada identified several factors to help draw people to public spaces during winter months. Observational research was conducted at two

³ "Economic & Health Benefits." The Trust for Public Land. Accessed December 10, 2018. <https://www.tpl.org/economic-health-benefits#sm.0000ctbm01uvtfklwxf2q2h0841bn>.

⁴Novara, Marisa. "The Economic Benefits of Great Public Places." Latest News. Accessed December 10, 2018. <https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/ex/sustainablecitiescollective/placemaking-blog-series-economic-benefits-great-public-places/110381/>.

parks in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in which the methods used in the parks were compared to see what was working to bring people to the spaces. It was found that conducting regular, efficient, and creative snow/ice removal and disposal, maintaining solar access, creating wind blocks, providing overhead shelter and warming huts, supplying heat sources, using colorful lighting, creating an aesthetically pleasing environment with bright colors, art and landscaping, ensuring a variety of suitable activities and amenities are available were all aspects that would help or do help the parks.⁵ This information can thus be applied to other parks that experience weather differences in the winter months to help stimulate and grow public use of the spaces--two cities in the US, Detroit, Michigan, and St. Paul, Minnesota, take advantage of their winter months and apply many of the principles identified by Davies. In both cities, lighting, creative adaptations of snow and ice are used for competitions, heat sources, and other programmed events take place during the winter.^{6,7} St. Paul will be expanded upon later in the case studies section of this paper.

Public Space and Health

Outdoor activity is healthy-- public spaces present opportunities for people to exercise and breathe fresh air when they might not have somewhere with that option otherwise. Simply walking in a park has been proven to reduce the risk of a heart attack by 50 percent, diabetes by 50 percent, colon cancer by 30 percent, and fracture of the

⁵ Davies, Keith. "A Pilot Study for Comparing Two Inner-City Edmonton Parks in Winter" Queens University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, 2014.

⁶ "Detroit's Parks Turn Winter Months into Placemaking Opportunity." Urban Land Magazine. April 18, 2018. Accessed December 04, 2018. Web.

⁷ History of the Saint Paul Winter Carnival." Saint Paul Winter Carnival. Accessed December 04, 2018. Web.

femur by up to 40 percent.⁸ Maintaining access and desire to visit public parks during the winter time may help promote a healthier lifestyle and population. Further, parks and other outdoor public spaces have been proven to help improve people's mental health, as well as their physical well-being. Studies have shown that being in nature or having natural views helps to lower blood pressure and reduce feelings of stress.⁹

The ability to visit a well-designed public space should be something that everyone has access to-- however, this is not always the case. Studies have shown lower rates of physical activity in people of lower-socioeconomic status. Additionally, area-level socioeconomic status, or the socioeconomic status of a community as a whole, has been associated with physical activity.¹⁰ While there may be availability of public space, the quality of that space may deter people from visiting it-- especially when the weather is not ideal. Therefore, taking into account the characteristics of the spaces can help provide insight into why a space is or is not being used.

Public Space, Parks, Winter and Microclimates

Outdoor space is directly affected by the climate of the area that it is in. Because of this, cities that experience winter must pay attention to and plan for that climate in order to create a space that is desirable for people to go to year-round. One way to do so is to look closely at the geographical constraints of the site. South-facing sun, wind

⁸Woolley, Helen, Slan Rose, Matthew Carmona, and Jonathan Freedman. *The Value of Public Space*. PDF. London: Cabe Space: Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, 2004.

⁹ Woolley, Helen, Slan Rose, Matthew Carmona, and Jonathan Freedman. *The Value of Public Space*. PDF. London: Cabe Space: Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, 2004.

¹⁰ Crawford, David, Anna Timperio, Billie Giles-Corti, Kylie Ball, Clare Hume, Rebecca Roberts, Nick Andrianopoulos, and Jo Salmon. "Do Features of Public Open Spaces Vary According to Neighbourhood Socio-economic Status?" *Health & Place* 14, no. 4 (2008): 889-93. doi:10.1016/j.healthplace.2007.11.002.

barriers, and drainage should all be heavily considered and planned for from the start. Utilizing these resources can create microclimates, cutting down on harsh winter wind and capturing the sun's rays to create, as Norman Pressman calls it, a "compassionate" space. Wind, snow, and sun control have all been heavily researched, and all have multiple ways of being dealt with-- therefore, even if a solution that worked for one site may not for another, it certainly should not be considered a dead end. Existing knowledge about these considerations may help with creating microclimates in various areas-- for example, Robert Brown, in his book *Design with Microclimate in Mind: The Secret to Comfortable Outdoor Space*, states the fact that in winter, "winds rarely blow from the south, and if they do they aren't that cold. They usually blow from the west and north..."¹¹ Pressman even goes so far as to create a list of urban design considerations that he believed would become more widespread at the time the book was published (1995), and some of which we saw in Keith Davies' research findings, including:

- the visual environment-- ice as art, bold colors, illumination for the "dark" periods, urban furniture, and civic embellishment
- human comfort-- micro-climatic studies happening more frequently, improved ergonomic design, landscaping concepts to reduce discomfort, eco chart use increase
- protective urban devices-- above-grade protection, below-grade protection, at-grade protection, sidewalk heating, multi-use buildings, retractable roofs, and pedestrian/vehicular-free zones

¹¹ Brown, Robert. *Design with Microclimate: The Secret to Comfortable Outdoor Spaces*. Washington: Island Press, 2010. Page 6.

- recreation and leisure-- parks, open space systems and waterfronts, winter safari and wildlife areas, ski-trail networks, winter-oriented outdoor amenities, carnivals and festivals, and winter-indoor gardens
- transportation-- reducing the necessity to walk, emphasis on snow removal, improved public transit

All of these concepts are, as he states, to be used to “integrate, rather than isolate, people with their environment. Living with winter not in spite of it...”¹² Looking positively upon winter’s specific qualities can allow one to see the potential the outdoor spaces have. In Elizabeth H. Hunter’s article for *House Beautiful*, garden designers Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd describe how the white of the snow can emphasize the colors of the other aspects of the space-- “Snow is smoky blue in the shadows, every shade of gray at twilight, and gold in the glinting sun,” says Winterrowd, “and it intensifies the greens and blues of the conifers and the taupes and ivories, browns and blacks of trunks and branches.” Deciduous trees will lose their leaves in winter, but this allows the evergreens, who may take a backseat in the other seasons, to stand out, and can change how the space is perceived.¹³ By consciously designing with multiple seasons in mind, designers can create dynamic spaces that actually change with the seasons.

Further, taking into consideration the psychological side of the winter experience can also help to encourage people to spend more time outdoors. Figure A, from

¹² Pressmann, Norman. *Northern Cityscape: Linking Design to Climate*. Yellowknife: Winter Cities Association, 1995. Pages 79-95.

¹³

<http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/detail?vid=19&sid=764898ee-e98d-42b0-b527-e94aca99b905%40sessionmgr4006&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWZWhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#AN=482237&db=bvh>

Marialena Nikolopoulou and Koen Steemers, of the Centre for Renewable Energy Resources in Greece and the Martin Center for Architectural and Urban Studies at the University of Cambridge, respectively, shows relationships between the “different parameters of psychological adaptation”. In their study, they touch on how

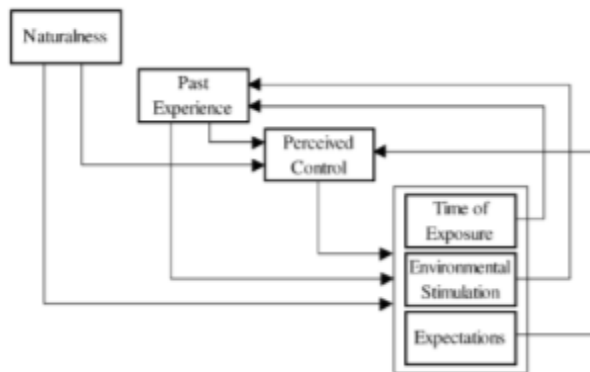


Figure A

psychological factors can influence a person's thermal comfort in different situations, e.g. thermal neutrality in outdoor conditions varied from 7.5 degrees celsius (45.5 degrees fahrenheit) in the winter to 27 degrees celsius (80.6

degrees fahrenheit) in the summer. This difference can be accounted for partially due to the physical temperature, but also because of people's day-to-day experiences and expectations of what the climate should be like¹⁴. If designers were to take into account people's expectations of climate, and perhaps work to create circumstances that may reverse these thoughts when the expectation is negative, then maybe we could create spaces that people want to be in (even in non-ideal conditions). Through this way of thinking and designing, we may begin to change the ideology that many people have about winter being a time of inclement weather and a time to stay indoors.

Jan Gehl and William H. Whyte's Public Space Observations, and Norman Pressman's Studies of Winter Design

¹⁴ Nikolopoulou, Marialena, and Koen Steemers. "Thermal Comfort and Psychological Adaptation as a Guide for Designing Urban Spaces." *Energy and Buildings* 35 (2003): 97 . Accessed April 15, 2019. doi:10.1016/s0140-6701(03)92082-0.

William H. Whyte adopted an observational method when conducting his research on public space. In his documentary “The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces”, video footage is used to demonstrate how people are using different parts of public spaces in New York City. He takes note of where people are in the space and what they are doing, and his analytical observations provide information on what physical aspects of a space create social situations: any raised surface acting as an invitation to sit and chat, a street corner with a food vendor acting as a new, shorter form of communion. His in-depth analysis of the spaces he studies includes sunlight and shade studies, demographics of the people in the spaces, and documentation of the levels of noise and traffic, among other things.

Jan Gehl is perhaps one of the most well-known authorities on public space analysis. His book, “How to Study Public Life”, looks into different aspects of public space and their effects on the people that use the space, and vice versa. His use of making note of who is in a space, what they are doing, and where things are happening, and his methods of counting, mapping, and tracking all lead to in-depth observational studies of public spaces, much like William H. Whyte’s. In “How to Study Public Life”, Gehl states, “[t]weaking observations into a system provides interesting information about the interaction of public life and public space.” He believes that by way of observation, rather than direct questioning of people using public spaces, we can understand why or why not certain spaces are being used. There is much to be gained from looking at public space critically-- one can determine what aspects spatially create instances socially, e.g. columns acting as places to lean and as shelter.

Norman Pressman did far more than just make recommendations for urban design with winter in mind. In his book, “Northern Cityscape”, he also goes into depth on how people think about winter socially. He talks about how people who embrace their cities as “winter cities” tend to have more outdoor activity in the winter season (logically so).¹⁵

CASE STUDIES.

Erie Street Plaza in Milwaukee, Wisconsin - Stoss Landscape Urbanism - Environment

At the Erie Street Plaza in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Stoss Landscape Urbanism designed a space adaptable to the city’s wide-ranging seasons. When designing the plaza, sustainable climate practices and event programming were important factors-- the park



Erie Street Plaza in Winter. Photo by John December.
<http://ndagallery.cooperhewitt.org/gallery/5107895/Erie-Street-Plaza>

[et-Plaza](#)

“activates and registers environmental cycles of stormwater by collecting runoff to support a reconstituted marsh / wetland, re-charges the groundwater tables, and utilizes river water for irrigation. Socially, the plaza is designed to accommodate a wide array of potential activities, including art festivals, gatherings, concerts, movies, weddings, festivals, farmer's markets, and

¹⁵ Pressmann, Norman. *Northern Cityscape: Linking Design to Climate*. Yellowknife: Winter Cities Association, 1995. Pages 79-95.

winter carnivals, as well as less intense, every-day activities like boat-watching, fishing, sunbathing, and simply hanging out.”¹⁶

Because both of these aspects of what the public space can do-- physically and socially-- were considered during the design process, the park is both a practical system to deal with stormwater and an enjoyable place to visit.

St. Paul, Minnesota - Winter Carnival - Event Programming

In St. Paul, Minnesota, much like many winter cities, the season takes up a large part of the year. The difference between this city and Columbus, however, is that St. Paul has an event called Winter Carnival that happens during the part of winter that seems to have been forgotten here-- late January to early February. The winter carnival has been running for 133 years. Through activities such as ice and snow sculpture contests, live music, and art shows, the carnival draws people to St. Paul even during its coldest time.¹⁷

Kellogg Mall Park is located at the edge of downtown St. Paul, bordered on one side by the city and the other the Mississippi River. The park spans



2019 St. Paul Winter Carnival. Photo from <https://kool108.iheartradio.com/content/2019-01-06-the-2019-st-paul-winter-carnival/>

only about 2 blocks long and about a half a block wide, but acts as the main location for the Winter Carnival. It plays host to the Ice Sculpture garden, whose creation is an

¹⁶ "Erie Street Plaza - Stoss." Stoss Landscape Urbanism. Accessed April 12, 2019. <https://www.stoss.net/projects/resiliency-waterfronts/erie-street-plaza>.

¹⁷ "Events Archive." Saint Paul Winter Carnival. Accessed April 05, 2019. <https://www.wintercarnival.com/calendar/>.

event in and of itself during the first four days of the festival. There are three parades that take place during the carnival, all ending at Kellogg Mall Park. Events that take place in the park include:

- Kid's Day: hosted by the St. Paul YMCA, includes a puzzle contest and other live entertainment
- Frozen Family Fun Night: food trucks, live performances at the ice sculptures, and ice-skating
- 70's Disco Night: live music from a disco band, dancing
- Minnesota Made Market: market filled with locally made products
- Family Day: ice carving competition and other activities
- Cinco de Mayo Happy Hour: St. Paul's other large festival for Cinco de Mayo brings some warmth with live traditional entertainment, food, and a jalapeno eating contest
- Hope & Hounds: Dog-friendly evening with local breweries¹⁸

Continuing event programming past the holiday season creates more reasons for people to get out of their home and into the parks and public spaces of the city.

Quebec City, Quebec - Winter Carnival - Event Programming

Another instance of a winter carnival that takes place after the holiday season is also possibly one of the most well-known. Occurring annually in early to mid February, the carnival takes place throughout the city of Quebec. The first carnival took place in

¹⁸ "Kellogg Mall Park." Saint Paul Winter Carnival. Accessed April 12, 2019. <https://www.wintercarnival.com/events/kellogg-mall-park/>.

1894, and occurred sporadically until it became an annual tradition in 1955.¹⁹ Traditions have become a huge part of the carnival-- from a mascot (Bonhomme) to a color (red) to an article of clothing (the sash) to an insane ice-canoeing race across the St.



Ice canoe race across the St. Lawrence. Photo from <https://wakeupwander.com/travel/canada/quebec-city-quebec/european-history-feel-walk-old-quebecs-winter-streets/>

Lawrence River. Creating these traditions helps to not only make and maintain a festive attitude around the event, but they are also a clever way to keep people coming back. There are a myriad of different events throughout the carnival, including:

- The Loto-Quebec Royal Court: the court plays host to the giant snow sculpture, Bonhomme, the mascot, a light show at night, ice towers, and live ice sculpting
- Jos' Camp: located at the parc de la Francophonie, this portion of the festival includes live music, a bar, a cabin with food, and a physical activities section with a ropes course and axe-throwing
- Les Rues de Glace ("the Snowy Streets"): ice sculptures line the streets, bonfires are lit at the parc Félix-Leclerc and parc Petit Champlain, an outdoor bar is created at parc Félix-Leclerc, and traditional music and games happen at the Maison Chevalier
- Contes d'Hiver au Coin de Feu ("Stories of Winter By the Fire"): winter tales are read aloud at sunset while fires and hot chocolate are provided to keep warm

¹⁹ "A Bit of History." Carnaval of Quebec | The Carnival - About the Carnival. Accessed April 14, 2019. <https://carnaval.qc.ca/en/the-carnival/about-carnival>.

- Live wood sculpting and ice sculpting demonstrations²⁰

Although not everything is free, the coordinators of the festival have been able to maintain a reasonable price-- children under 8 are free, and what they call the “Effigy”, which gets you access to all of the events and some extra perks at others, is only \$10.

City of Winnipeg, Manitoba - Planning and Policy

The city of Winnipeg, Manitoba, took a policy-related route to ensure more comfortable and desirable public spaces. In 1987, an urban design review process was established, with the goal of improving the downtown pedestrian condition through vegetation and color, and climatic impact statements dealing with sunlight, shadows, and wind/snow impacts.²¹ Further, embracing the conditions that come with winter weather, rather than trying to fight them, allows for creative and fun activities to take place-- icy sidewalks and trails become long ice rinks for skating, and warming huts create both practical rest areas and fun destinations.

RESEARCH DESIGN/METHODOLOGY.

In order to answer my research question, I used an observational research method coupled with a case study focused on Northern cities that experience winter conditions and maintain productive, inviting public spaces. I visited three parks-- Schiller Park, in German Village, Weinland Park, in Weinland Park, and Columbus Commons, in Downtown Columbus once a week and on weekends at different times to gauge the number of people (and dogs) using the park, how they were using it, and how the park

²⁰ "Quebec City Attractions and Activities." Carnaval of Quebec | Programming - Schedules 2018. Accessed April 14, 2019. <https://carnaval.qc.ca/en/programming/schedules#/events/byDay>.

²¹ Pressmann, Norman. *Northern Cityscape: Linking Design to Climate*. Yellowknife: Winter Cities Association, 1995. Page 141.

looked itself. My observations were made with two different aspects in mind-- the social and spatial qualities of the park spaces.

To conduct this study, I found information on the socioeconomic status of the parks I observed. I documented what the surrounding area is like-- residential, urban, denser, more spread out. I found information on what (if any) community groups or organizations are involved with maintaining or programming the parks. Further, I found information regarding any events that are scheduled to happen during the months that I would be making observations at the parks, in order to be able to account for a possible difference in number of visitor to the park than on a normal day (turned out there were none-- more on that later). I also recorded the exact temperature, wind chill, precipitation (if any) and sunlight during the time that I spent at the parks to be able to account for differences due to that as well.

Key concepts, such as number of people in the park, what they were doing, and what features the park has, were recorded for all three parks. This data was collected in the same manner for all of the parks as well. Further qualitative descriptions vary based off of what was going on in each specific park at the time. I based my research design off of that done by Jan Gehl and Birgitte Svarre in their book "How to Study Public Life". I used their questions of "how many, who, where, what, and how long" in order to correlate the data I collected to draw conclusions between the separate park spaces.²² I also used William H. Whyte's catalogue of spatial and physical qualities, from his research "The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces" to document my observations, using

²² Gehl, Jan, Birgitte Svarre, and Karen Ann. Steenhard. How to Study Public Life. Washington: Island Press, 2013

his characteristics of sitting space, sun, trees, wind, and water, food, the street, and effective capacity.²³

Regarding internal validity, because I could not be at all three parks at the exact same time on the exact same day, and because I cannot control the weather each day, variations in those factors may have caused a few differences in that data I collected. In terms of external validity, because the observational portion of this study focused on parks solely in Columbus, Ohio, there are several aspects that may not be attributable to parks in cities elsewhere. In the case study portion of this research, I include both cities comparable in size to Columbus, as well as some that are much larger, to demonstrate similarities and differences in methods of working with winter conditions.

Because no people were directly involved in this research--no formal interviews were be conducted--and the information gathered is being used solely for this course, there was low risk and not a need for IRB approval. I was mindful of people's personal space, but because I was conducting these observations in solely designated "public spaces", all data collection was legal.

RESULTS.

Before conducting the observational portion of this study, it was hypothesized that Schiller Park would have the most programming and activity, Columbus Commons would have the second, and Weinland Park the least. After visiting the parks, it was clear that although Schiller saw the most activity in terms of number of people using the park, it was still used for mostly the same things as the other two: walking dogs or

²³ Whyte, William Hollingsworth. *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*. Nueva York (Estados Unidos): Project for Public Spaces, 2014.

cutting through. Each park's winter function seemed to be primarily utilitarian, despite their differences in size, design, location, and surrounding demographic area.

Schiller Park

Schiller Park is located in the German Village neighborhood of Columbus. The demographics of the

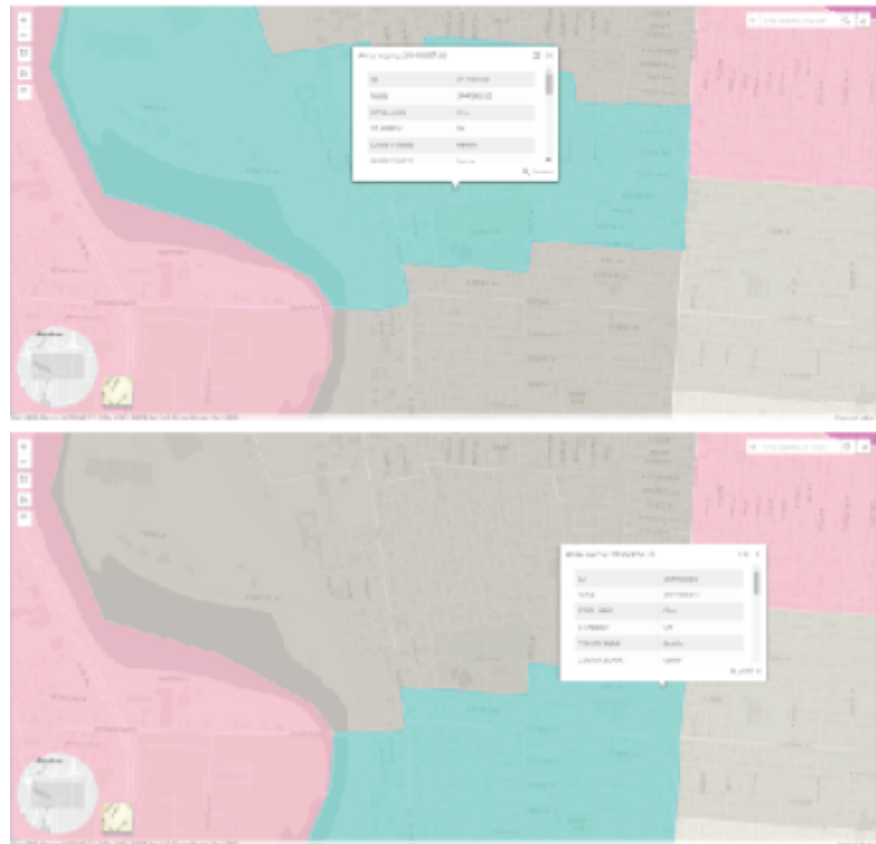
surrounding area are majority white, aged 25-34 according to the 2010 US Census data.²⁴

²⁵ Bordering all sides of the park are single and multi-family homes.

Prices of the homes directly surrounding the park range from \$1.69 million (or about \$10,124/month) to

\$251,378 (or about

\$1,100/month)²⁶. There are nine defined points of entry off of the street demarcated by



GIS data on Schiller Park surrounding areas

²⁴ "Predominant Populations." Columbus.maps.arcgis.com. Accessed April 05, 2019.

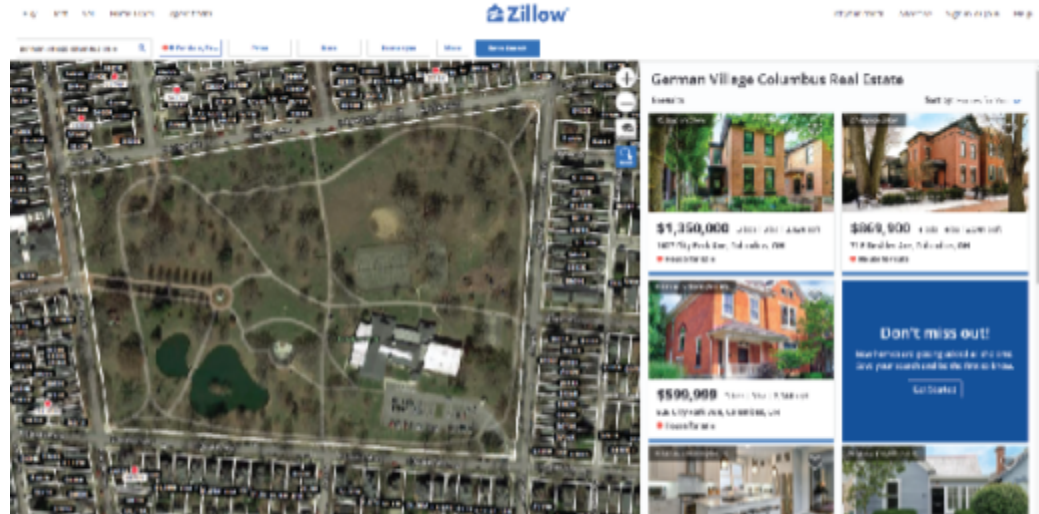
<http://columbus.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Media/index.html?appid=4e1c788f766f498fb4a49d0e90488ecd>.

²⁵ "Median Age." Columbus.maps.arcgis.com. Accessed April 05, 2019.

<http://columbus.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Media/index.html?appid=f231cb5c53e4468f86f63ed5704e6b3b>.

²⁶ Zillow Zestimate. German Village Real Estate - German Village Columbus Homes For Sale. Zillow.com. <https://www.zillow.com/homes/?searchQueryState={%22mapBounds%22:{%22west%22:-82.99564358721415,%22east%22:-82.9893672181193,%22south%22:39.94018994362092,%22north%22:39.94384628>

a cement
path, but the
edges of the
parks that
are simply
grass are
traversable,
as well, so
there are



Aerial image of Schiller Park with surrounding home rental/sale prices. Screenshot taken from Zillow Zestimate.

many more points of entry than just the paths.

While the scale of the surrounding buildings is low-- two to three storeys-- they are close together and the relatively high density creates a sense of enclosure around the park. You can generally see across the park to the other side, but some change in grade and placement of structures creates moments where aspects of the park are hidden from view, e.g., a playground can be seen from certain points, but not others. Trees of varying size are dispersed throughout the



The buildings create the edge of the park.

[504078}.%22usersSearchTerm%22:%22german%20village%20columbus%20ohio%22.%22regionSelection%22:{%22regionId%22:416010,%22regionType%22:8}}.%22isMapVisible%22:true,%22mapZoom%22:18,%22pagination%22:{},%22filterState%22:{%22isAllHomes%22:{%22value%22:true},%22price%22:{%22min%22:900000,%22max%22:3000000},%22monthlyPayment%22:{%22min%22:3469,%22max%22:11562}},%22isListVisible%22:true}](#) (accessed 5 April 2019).

park; the highest concentration is in the North-West section of the park, and around the edges. Despite their abundance in the park, the trees' lack of leaves-- none are evergreens-- means that there is not a great impact in terms of shading, adding color, blocking wind, or enforcing the edge. Entering from the West, a formal brick path lined with small, green bushes that provide a small amount of color leads to a large, statue of Friedrich Schiller, after whom the park is named. There is also another statue in the park, in the North-West corner, of a girl holding an umbrella, affectionately known as the Umbrella Girl Statue.



Formal brick path with green bushes at West entry.

Of the three parks, Schiller is the only one with very much noticeable change in topography. It contains multiple structures, however, none can really be classified as public enclosures for the park. There is a large building towards the center of the park



The pond, not quite frozen over.

(that's actually a gym) and a smaller building near the West entrance which could provide some shelter from the wind, but only by hiding around the side that is not facing the wind. A small stage is located towards the center of the park, but is not enclosed. A parking lot and the gym building take up the South-Eastern portion

of the site, and a pond takes up most of the South-Western. A playground and six tennis courts make up the North-Eastern quarter.

Activity in the park was limited almost exclusively to people walking by themselves or walking their dogs. Only on a handful of occasions that the park was visited did other things take place. January 22nd was an exceptionally warm day (40 degrees) and the snow had almost completely melted. A group of four college-aged girls ate sandwiches at one of the picnic tables, at another an older woman ate lunch while her small dog sat atop the table keeping watch over the park, and near the tennis courts a man was playing fetch with his dog, while on the courts three other dogs were having a ball running around with each other. On January 27th, snow covered the ground so that you could not see the grass and the sun was shining, and despite the cold (23 degrees fahrenheit), three children and their parents moseyed over to the park from the surrounding houses on the Eastern side, dragging sleds behind them, and spent some time taking advantage of the small hill on that corner of the park. On the other end of that side a man pulled his child around the icy park in a wagon. February saw a few days of unusually warm weather (the 3rd-6th, 12th, 14th, 24th, and 27th all saw temperatures above 50 degrees



Sledding on the small hill.

fahrenheit) and during those of which that were observed (the 5th, 12th, 14th, and 24th), more people were in the park total, and a few stopped to enjoy their lunches outdoors at one of the picnic tables. However, on every other occasion the park



A man pulling his child in a wagon around the park.



So good, he doesn't even need a leash.

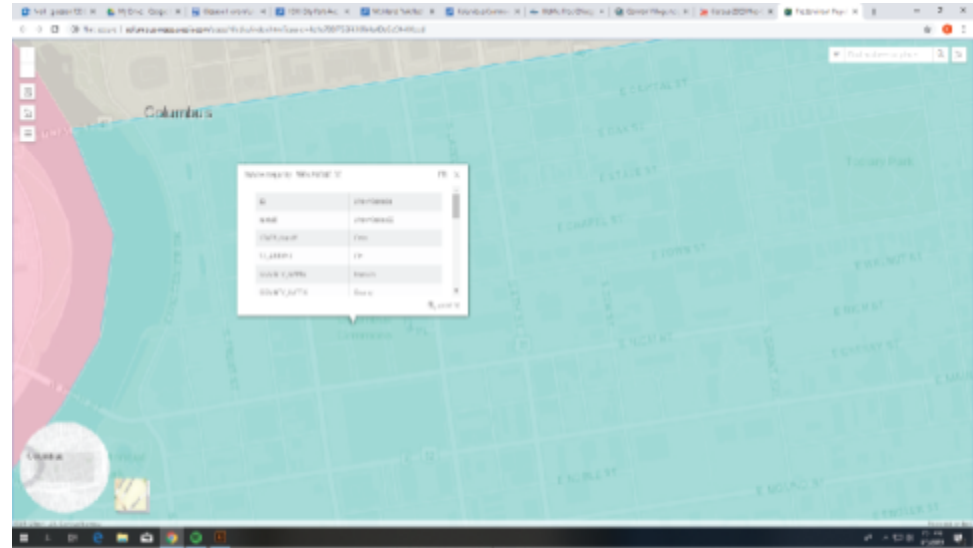
was visited, the only use of the park was for circulation, either by people themselves or with their dogs.

Schiller Park is heavily programmed in the weeks leading up to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, however winter event programming after this time is non-existent. Despite the fact that there is a community group devoted specifically to the park

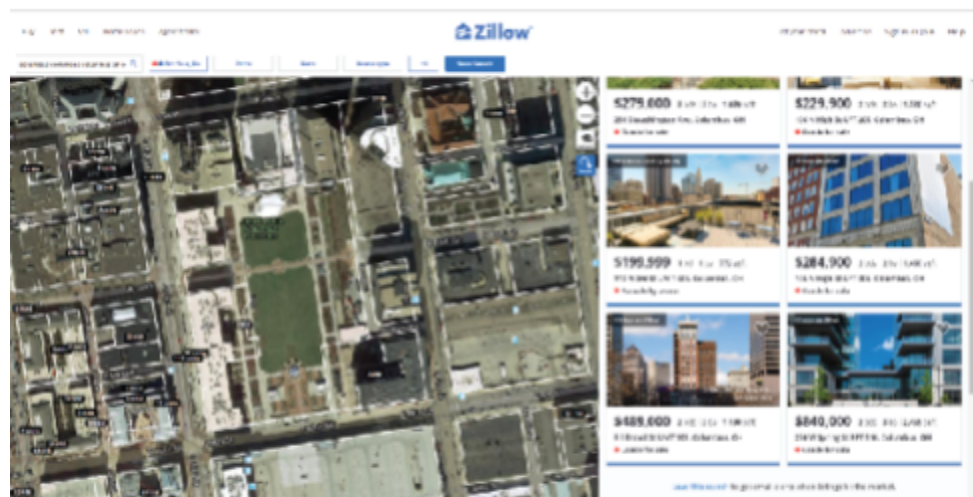
(Friends of Schiller Park, a committee of the German Village Society), no advertised events could be found after the Holiday season.

Columbus Commons

Columbus Commons is located in the Downtown of Columbus. The surrounding area is majority white, majority aged 25-29 and 50-59, according to 2010 US Census data.²⁷ Bordering the edges of the park is a mix of buildings: the Columbus



GIS data for Columbus Commons surrounding area.



Screenshot from Zillow Zestimate.

Symphony Orchestra, a hotel, and mixed-used high density residential buildings, most of which are restaurant/bars, not retail. The rental price of apartments that border the

²⁷ "Predominant Populations." Columbus.maps.arcgis.com. Accessed April 05, 2019.
<http://columbus.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Media/index.html?appid=4e1c788f766f498fb4a49d0e90488ecd>.

²⁸ "Median Age." Columbus.maps.arcgis.com. Accessed April 05, 2019.
<http://columbus.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Media/index.html?appid=f231cb5c53e4468f86f63ed5704e6b3b>.

area are of a median range, about \$1,200 to \$1,800 for a 1-bed 1-bath apartment.²⁹

There are four points of entry-- one from the South, two from the West, and one from the East.

The buildings that surround Columbus Commons are of a large scale and high density. They create a sense of enclosure and prohibit views to most of the surrounding



Tall surrounding buildings create hard edge to the park.

streets around the park. They also can act as wind breakers to some extent, but not significantly so, because the actual park has nothing on the interior to break the wind that does get around the buildings. The level of noise from the busy streets bordering the park

noticeably decreases when one is in the park, but noise can be heard nonetheless. The park's solar orientation is North-South, and the south side of the park does not have any buildings. Sunlight can enter and covers the park almost entirely during the day.



The large, uninterrupted grassy expanse of the park. On sunny, snowy days, it was almost impossible to see anything due to the reflectivity of the white snow.

²⁹ Zillow Zestimate. Columbus Real Estate - Columbus OH Homes For Sale. Zillow.com [https://www.zillow.com/homes/?searchQueryState={%22mapBounds%22:{%22west%22:-83.00166819655612,%22east%22:-82.99539182746128,%22south%22:39.956829392585625,%22north%22:39.96048484470697},%22usersSearchTerm%22:%22columbus%20commons%20columbus%20ohio%22,%22regionSelection%22:\[{%22regionId%22:10920,%22regionType%22:6}\],%22isMapVisible%22:true,%22mapZoom%22:18,%22pagination%22:{},%22filterState%22:{%22keywords%22:{%22value%22:%22columbus%20commons%20%22},%22isAllHomes%22:{%22value%22:true}},%22isListVisible%22:true}.](https://www.zillow.com/homes/?searchQueryState={%22mapBounds%22:{%22west%22:-83.00166819655612,%22east%22:-82.99539182746128,%22south%22:39.956829392585625,%22north%22:39.96048484470697},%22usersSearchTerm%22:%22columbus%20commons%20columbus%20ohio%22,%22regionSelection%22:[{%22regionId%22:10920,%22regionType%22:6}],%22isMapVisible%22:true,%22mapZoom%22:18,%22pagination%22:{},%22filterState%22:{%22keywords%22:{%22value%22:%22columbus%20commons%20%22},%22isAllHomes%22:{%22value%22:true}},%22isListVisible%22:true}.) (accessed 5 April 2019).

The southern entry is a mostly brick and cement plaza with a formal grouping of trees and two food kiosks-- a Jeni's Ice-cream and a Tortilla (a taco/burrito place). A



One of the (closed) kiosks at the South entry.

carousel sits in the center of the Northern edge of the plaza. None of these structures are open or running in the winter. Behind the plaza is a long, grassy rectangular area raised about 6" off of the ground. No trees or topographical changes occur on the grass. A cement sidewalk lines the two North-South sides of the rectangle, and a

brick one along the East-West axis about three-quarters on the way through. Small groupings of bushes create an almost indistinguishable boundary between the backs of the bordering buildings and the park. At the Northern end of the park is a large amphitheater.

Each time this park was visited, the only activity occurring was solely circulatory, except on one occasion (January 10th) where a girl walked her husky onto the grass, paused for a moment to take a selfie with the dog,

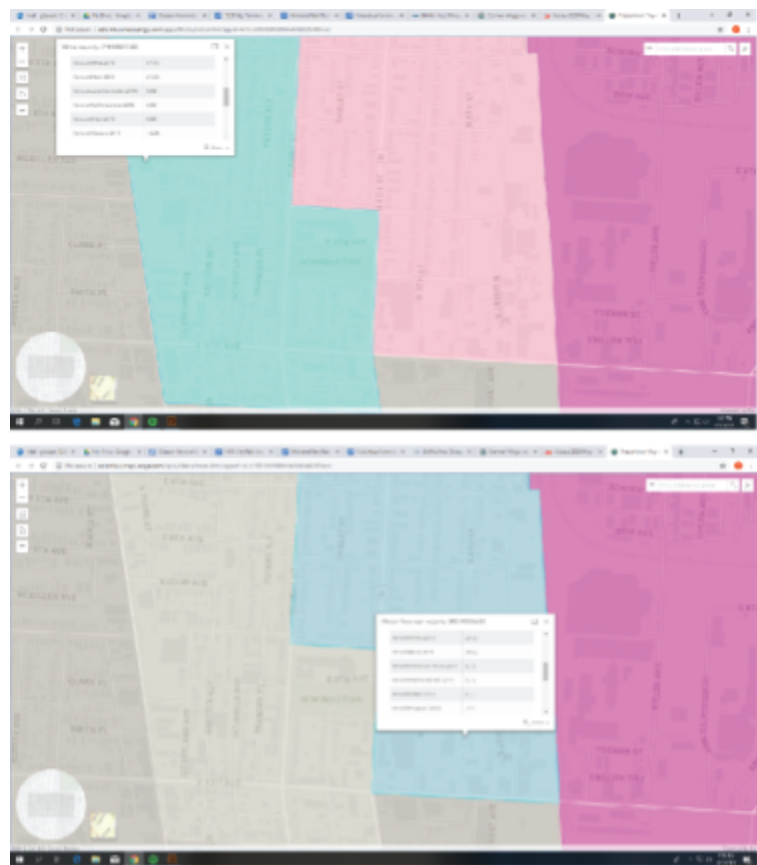


A good place to let your dog run around.

and then continued on their way. Significant to note, however, is the amount of people that use the park to cut through. Over 30 people were documented each time the park was visited, all using the space to walk from S High Street to S 3rd, or from E State Street to E Rich Street. This was significantly more foot traffic than was noticed on the streets surrounding the park. Therefore, it would seem that there is something about an enclosed green space that draws people in, as it would actually take more time to walk through the park space to get to the other side than it would to remain on the edge of the street, there is just nothing there (currently) to make them stay in winter conditions.

Weinland Park

Weinland Park is located in the Weinland Park neighborhood of Columbus. The demographics of the surrounding area are majority white to the South and West of the park, and majority African American to the North and East of the park, majority aged 25-34, according to 2010 US Census data.³⁰³¹ Summit Street and N 4th Street



GIS data for surrounding area of Weinland Park.

³⁰ "Predominant Populations." Columbus.maps.arcgis.com. Accessed April 05, 2019. <http://columbus.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Media/index.html?appid=4e1c788f766f498fb4a49d0e90488ecd>.

³¹ "Median Age." Columbus.maps.arcgis.com. Accessed April 05, 2019. <http://columbus.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Media/index.html?appid=f231cb5c53e4468f86f63ed5704e6b3b>.

border the East and West sides of the park, respectively. To the North is the Weinland Park Elementary

School and the

Schoenbaum

Family Center

which spans from

Summit to 4th,

and to the South

is a series of

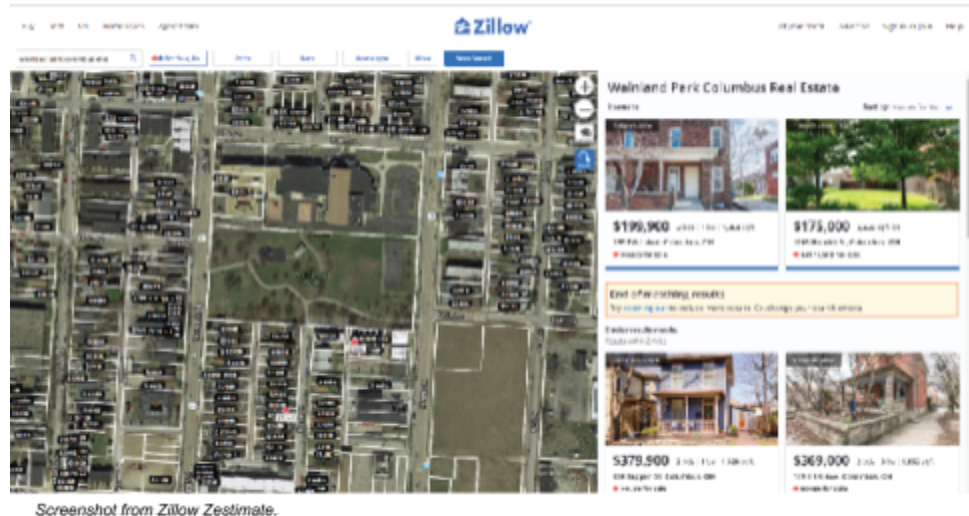
multi-family

residential buildings. Rental prices of apartments bordering the park range from

\$924/month to \$1,400/month. Entry to the park can

be made at any point along the border, as there is no fence nor tree line that would prohibit it.

There is one clearly defined path that crosses Weinland Park from Summit to 4th Street, about 4 feet wide. Another sidewalk extends from



Screenshot from Zillow Zestimate.



A wider, more direct path across the park alongside the elementary school.



A nice, winding path across the park.

the elementary school building to the residential area to the South. The entirety of the park is covered in grass except for these cement paths, two basketball courts in the North-East section, and a

playground in the North-West section. The only structure present in the park is a small



The playground.

pavilion with three picnic tables close to the playground. There is a slight topographical change in elevation from the street edge to the center of the park, but it is not very noticeable. The lack of structure or trees on the East and West sides of the park make

it feel very open to the very busy streets of Summit

and 4th-- the sounds from traffic are present and felt at nearly all times. However, the elementary school and residential buildings to the North and South create a strong edge along those sides and provide some sense of enclosure.

During the time spent at the park, only one man (white, mid-forties) used the path on bicycle to cut through, one man (white, mid-twenties) walked his Dalmatian, and one group of three people (white, about mid-twenties, male) played frisbee on the February 24th.



A man and his happy, leash-less dog wandering the park.

During the school week when it was not too cold (January 21st, 22nd, 30th

and 31st had extreme wind-chill advisories - down to -20 degrees Fahrenheit at some points), the children from the elementary school used the playground amenity, but



The park provides a nice shortcut for bicyclists between the busy 4th and Summit streets.

activity on the weekends was not present. Otherwise, the park was unused at all times of observation, despite its proximity to residential areas and having a playground. Using the traces method from Jan Gehl and looking at the footprints found on the sidewalk and in the snow, it was obvious that the park was used mostly by people walking their dogs.

CRITIQUES/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS.

Due to its climate, Columbus should be thought of and think of itself as a winter city. While most public park spaces can be desirable to visit during nice weather and the summer months without much (if any) event programming, further care and consideration must be made and taken into account in order to make these spaces desirable for the entire year. Further investigation into micro-climate aspects that can be created in existing and future parks should be taken into account to generate environments that are conducive to outdoor use for prolonged periods of time. Columbus parks' biggest problem with usage in winter is getting people to actually *stay* in the parks, instead of just use them for utilitarian purposes such as walking the dog or as a shortcut between destinations. Their lack of event programming, creative lighting, use of vegetation to cut down on wind, and snow and ice removal prohibit people from being able to spend extended periods of time outdoors in these spaces. Each park being different, they all have specific aspects that can and do work for or against them.



Footprints suggesting this dog stuck close to his person.

While none of the three Columbus parks chosen for this study are on a waterfront, the thought and creativity given to dealing with stormwater runoff at the Erie Street Plaza should be noted and applied (just perhaps in different ways) to parks here. Further, looking to where activity in the parks does occur can lend insight into where improvements can be made in terms of where to add vegetation for wind blockage, or where to try and capture more sunlight. For example, at Schiller Park, people who stopped to play fetch with the dog, or let their dogs run around with others, may choose to stay in the park longer if there were some plantings along the Western side to help block the wind that currently blows freely around the largest open area. Further, specific attention to winter programming-- "winter carnivals"-- that was obviously thought about in the design process in that same project should also be considered during the process here, but for parks that are already existing, more energy should be put to creating activities in these existing spaces to give them more life in the winter.

Continued event programming past the holiday season may act as enough incentive to get people to use the public parks without having to make potentially costly design implementations or changes. While some people may just have the mindset or preference to remain indoors when it is cold out, an event like a food truck night, a community bonfire, or live music may be enticing enough to get them to go outside. Columbus does not get as much snow as St. Paul or Quebec City, yet there are many aspects (theoretical and individual) that can be taken from there and applied to parks here. Specifically, certain activities such as live music and ice-boat races could happen on the stage and in the pond at Schiller Park. Live music absolutely could happen in

Columbus Commons in the winter as it does in the summer. The children in the Weinland Park neighborhood (and other neighborhoods, of course), at the Weinland Park Elementary School, and at the Schoenbaum Family Center could display chalk artwork on the basketball courts. With heat lamps and festive lighting, a community potluck could be held in the pavilion at Weinland, at the picnic tables in Schiller, or around the stage at Columbus Commons. Local breweries, coffee shops, and restaurants, such as those around Schiller Park and Columbus Commons, could hold food truck or pop-up events at the parks. Once these events begin to happen weekly, monthly, annually, traditions can be created, such as those at the winter carnival in Quebec City, which may hold enough weight for members of the community to keep them coming back, even if the weather is not great. If Weinland Park and Columbus Commons were to implement community groups like the Friends of Schiller Park, with a Facebook page or website with an e-mail list of members of the community, events such as these would be able to come together quickly and word could be spread, so that, for example, in the event of a large snowfall, a snowman building contest or snowball fight could be organized.

A condition unique to Columbus is the fact that oftentimes temperatures reach those of even more Northern/winter cities, but the amount of snowfall, which makes so many of the winter-specific activities possible, is not present. Having a plan for event programming, even if it is at a very small, neighborhood level (as may need to be the case at Weinland Park, for example) can help to mitigate the negative effects that cold temperatures without consistent snow-cover may have. Thus, the most can be made

out of when it does snow, and that events that do not require snow, such as food or music, can help continue to keep people coming outside when there isn't any. This is something that designers will need to take into consideration when both planning events in current public spaces and parks, and when designing new ones. The lack of snow can be looked upon as a hindrance (perhaps there cannot be massive snow castle building contests that then leave incredible structures to be visited throughout the season) and a benefit (perhaps snow removal does not have to be given quite as much thought or concern as it does in St. Paul or Quebec City, and people can access the parks by foot, car, or bike more easily with less snow present). But with the possibility of that snowfall, and the certainty of the temperatures, why shouldn't Columbus consider itself a winter city? If designers were to look towards other Northern/winter cities as precedents in terms of how these effective event planning and microclimatic strategies help to stimulate and maintain activity in their public parks, then perhaps Columbus could have exciting outdoor spaces for its community to enjoy year-round, and finally outgrow the phrase, "it wouldn't be so bad if it just weren't as windy" for good.

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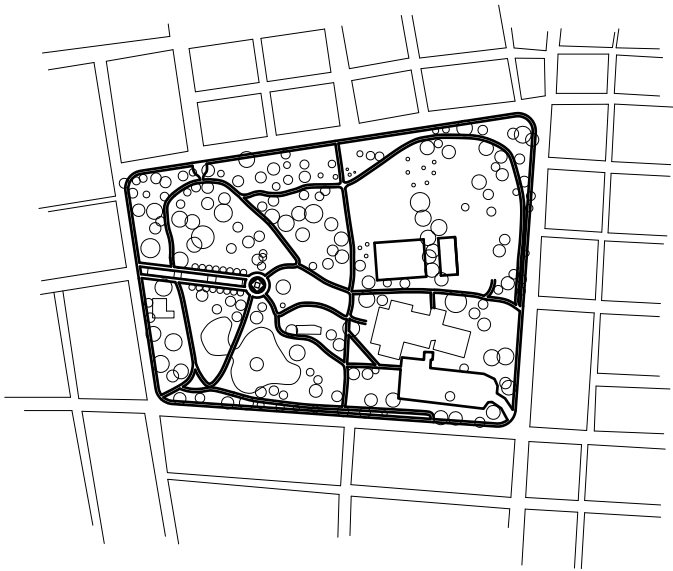
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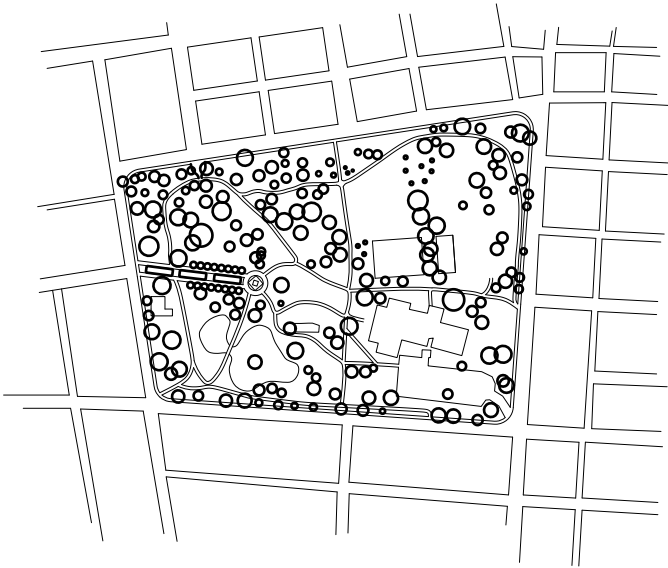
figure/ground - buildings



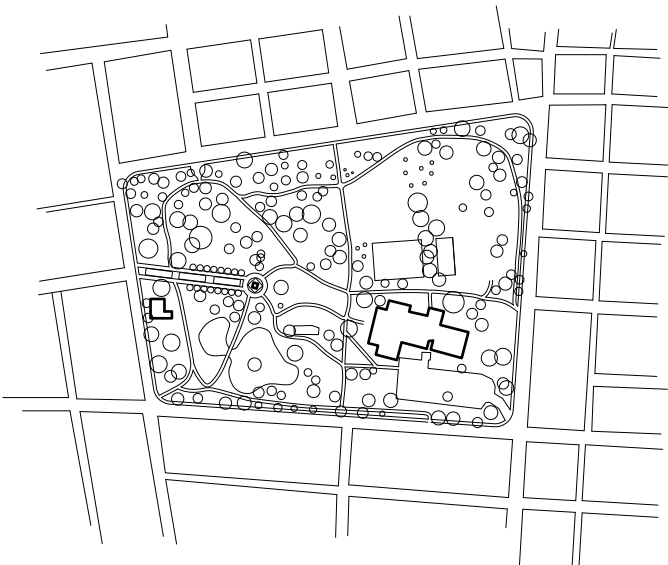
figure/ground - plantings



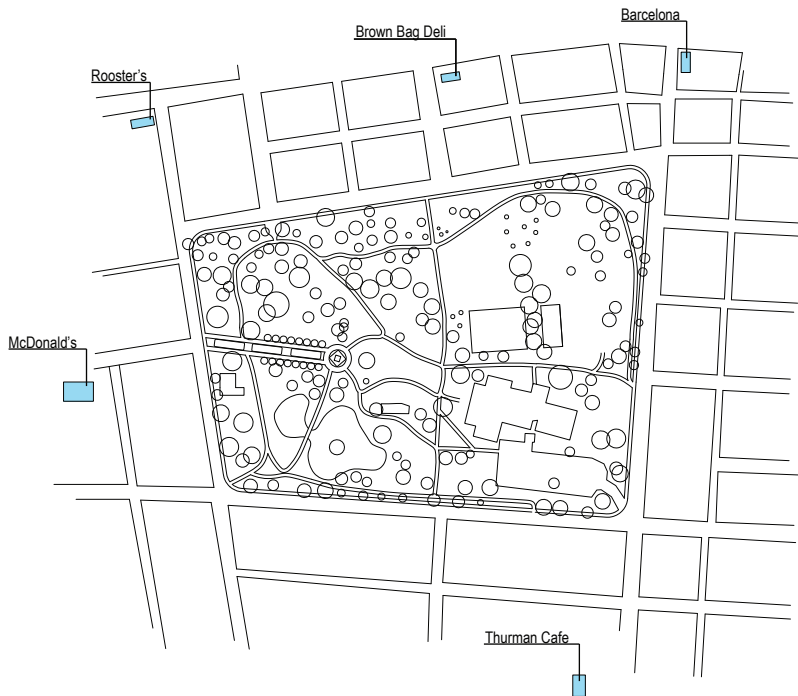
sidewalks, pathways, paving



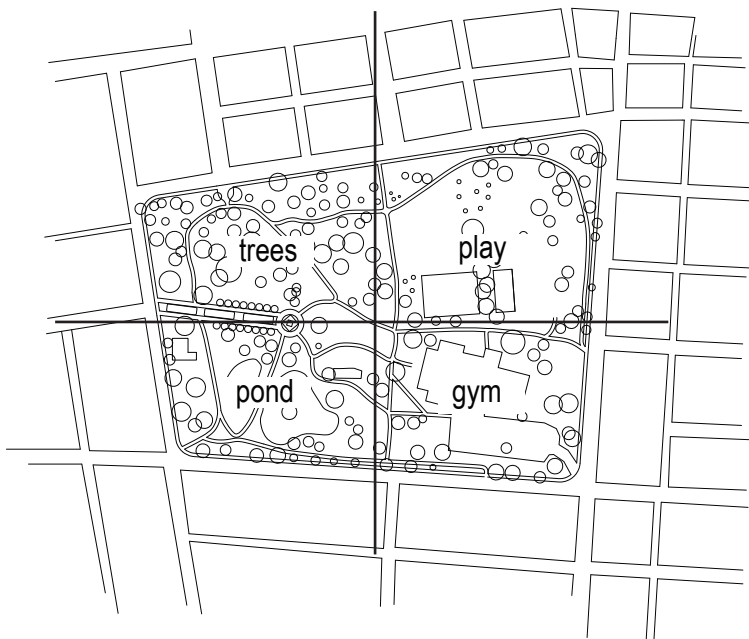
trees and plantings



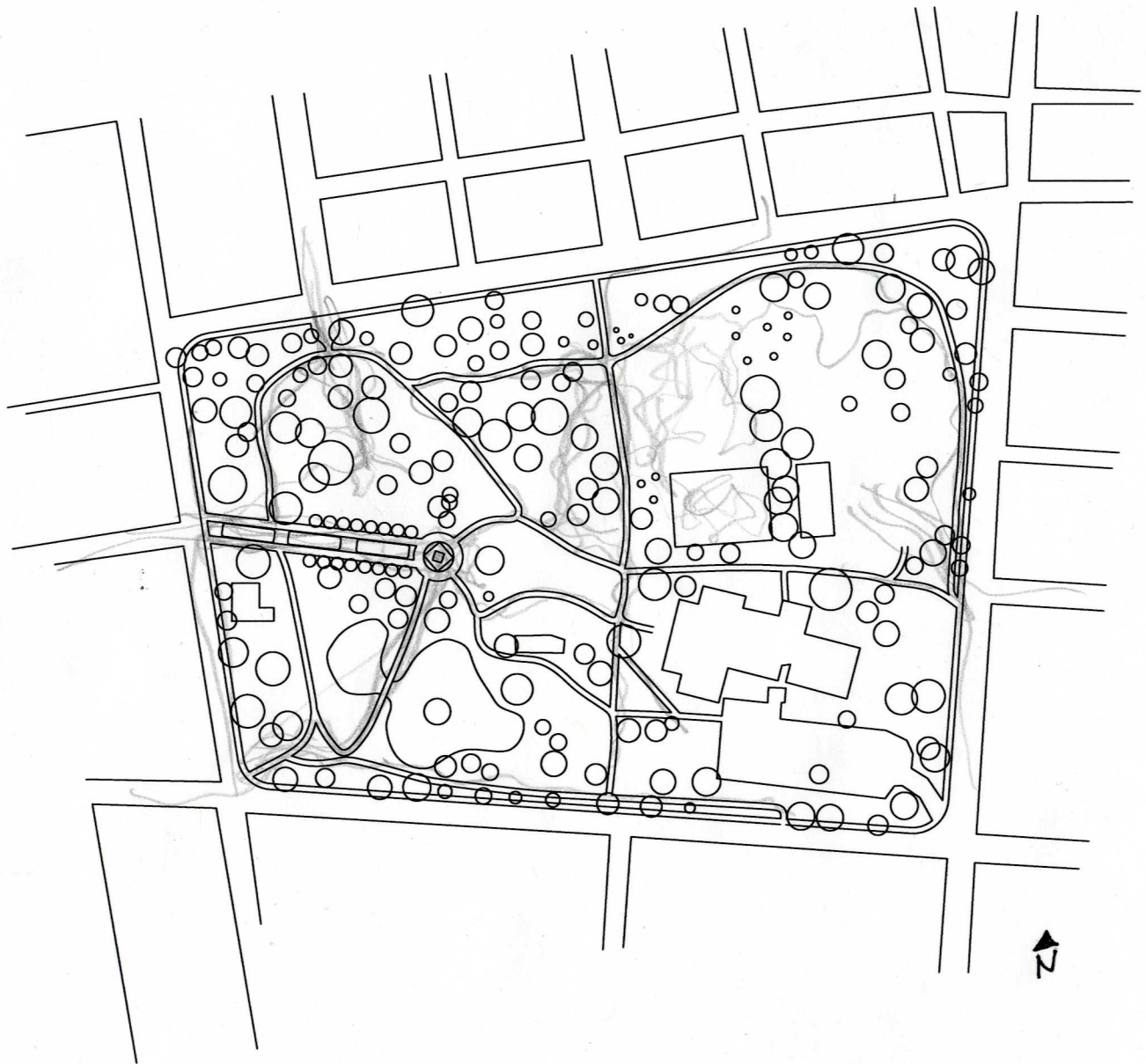
buildings/structures



restaurants within 2 blocks of park:
 McDonald's, Rooster's, Barcelona,
 Thurman Cafe, Brown Bag Delicatessen



program breakdown



SCHILLER PARK - CIRCULATION

People walking by themselves stayed mainly on paths; people walking dogs strayed away from paths the most. Sidewalks were not very well salted, and were often quite icy.



SCHILLER PARK - ALBEDO + SUN PATH



SCHILLER PARK - WHERE PEOPLE STAY + WIND SHADOW

X BUILDING SNOWMEN

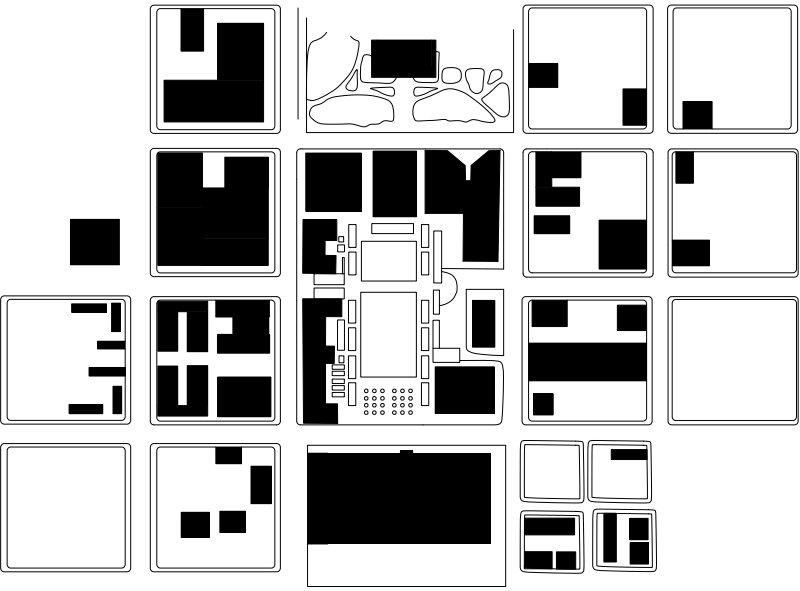
X SITTING AT PICNIC TABLES

X JUST STANDING AROUND

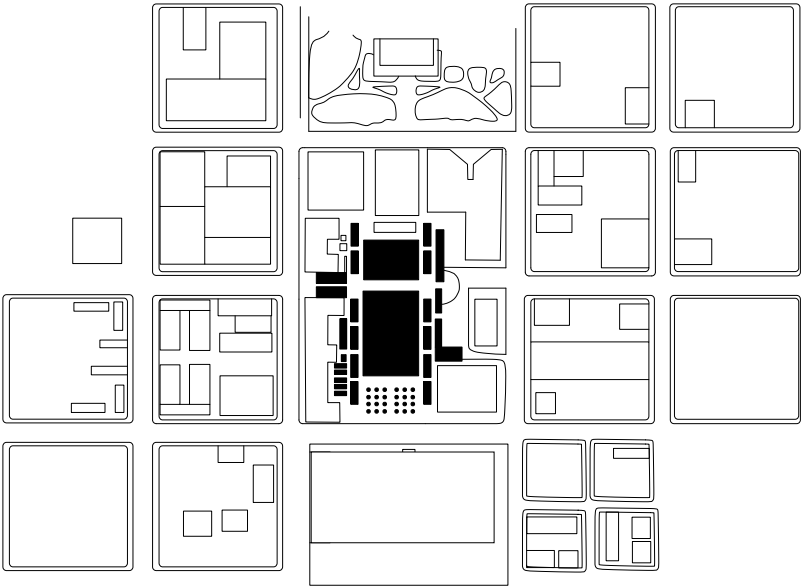
X DOGS - PLAYING TOGETHER, CHASING BALLS

X PLAYGROUND / SMALL SLEDDING HILL

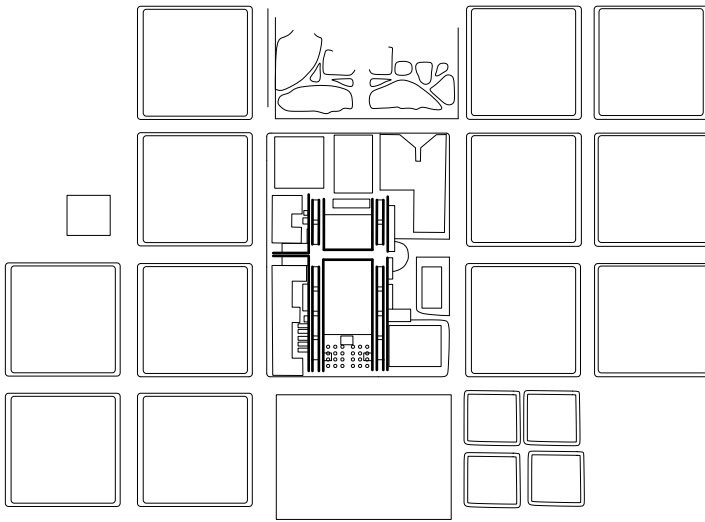
▨ BREAK FROM WIND - WIND DIRECTION
PRIMARY W/NW/SW



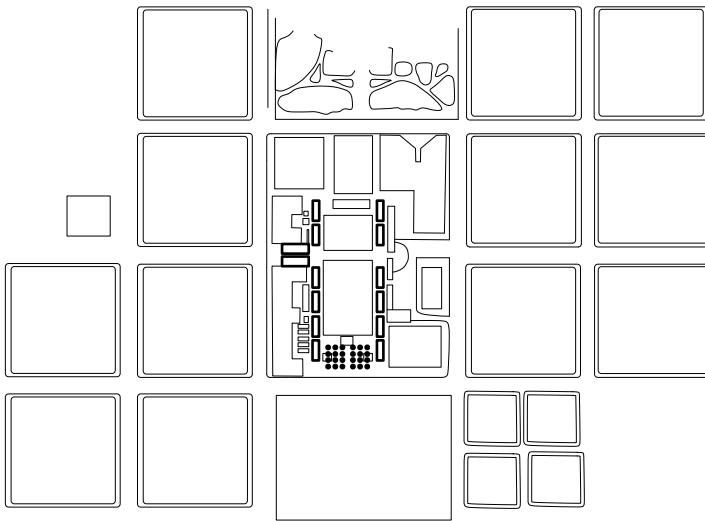
figure/ground - buildings



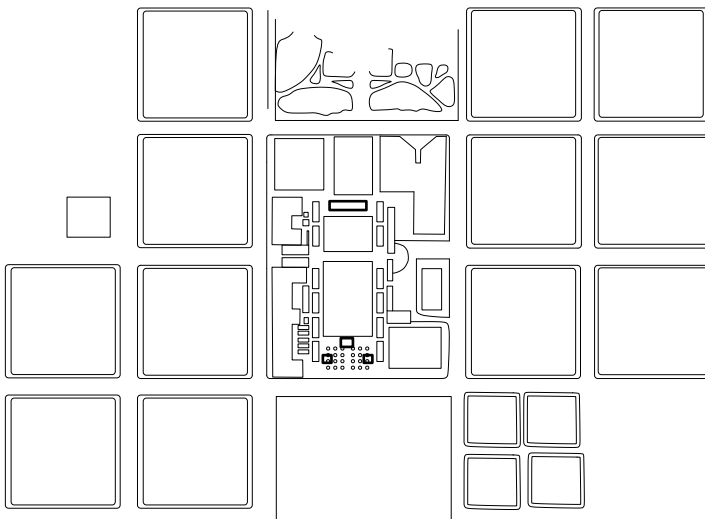
figure/ground - plantings



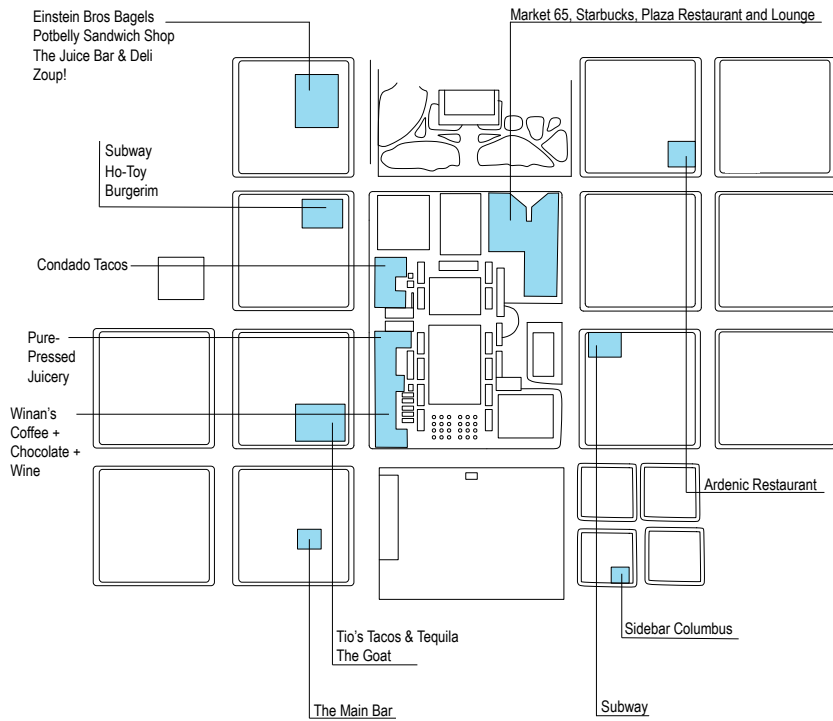
sidewalks, pathways, paving



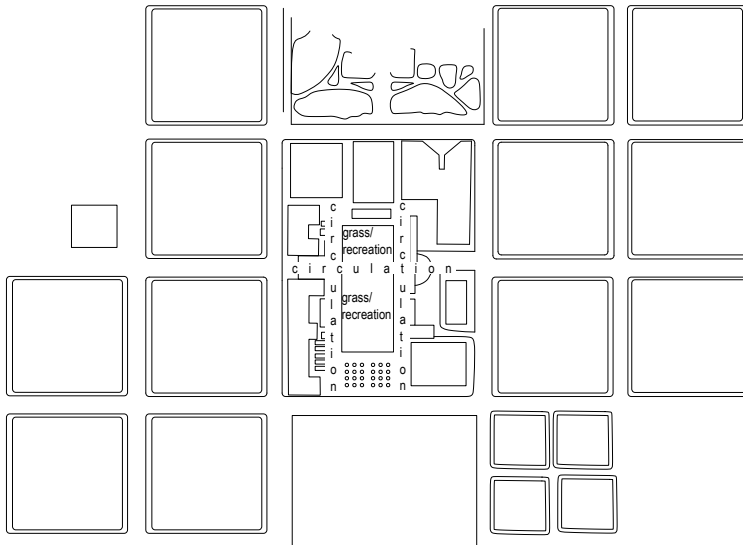
trees and plantings



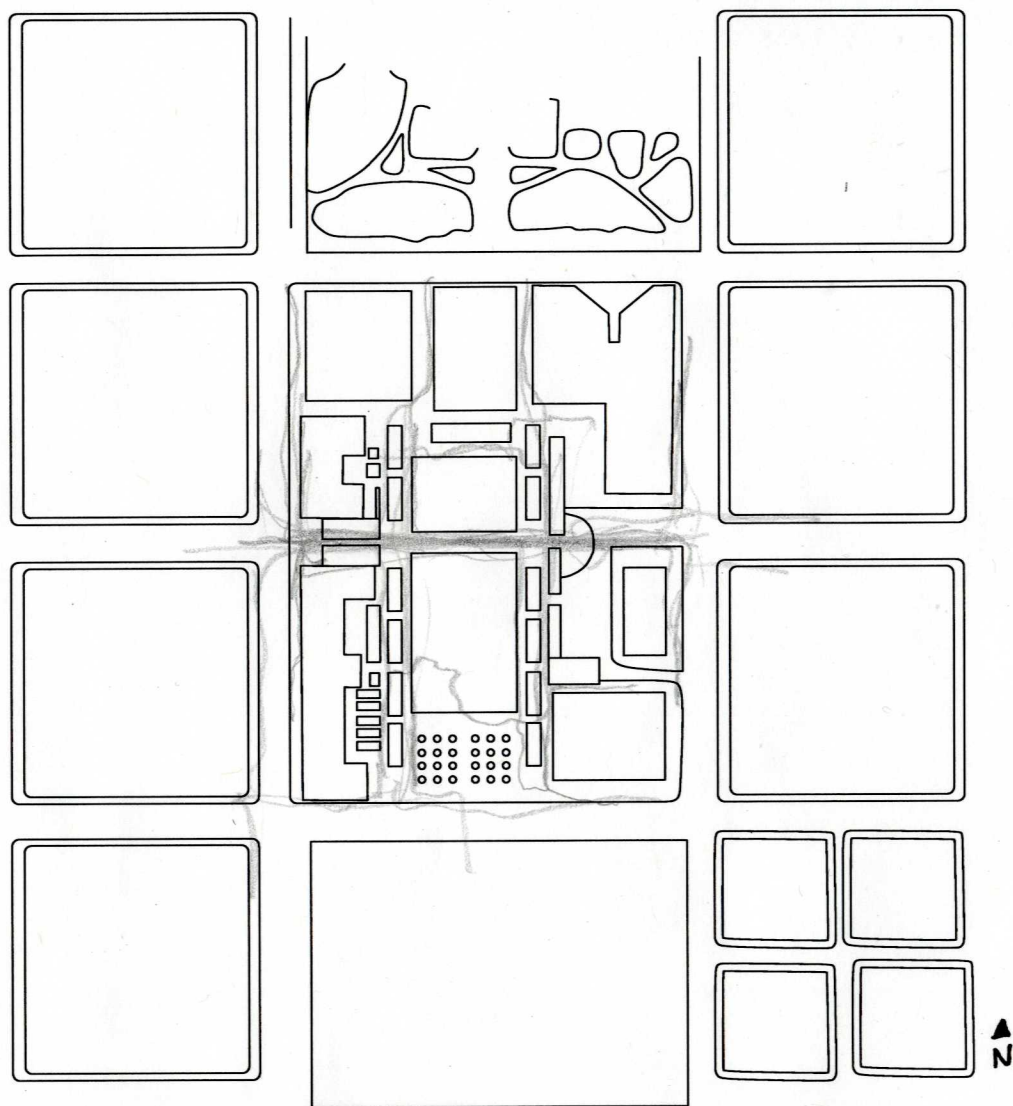
buildings/structures



restaurants within 2 blocks of park:
Einstein Bros Bagels, Potbelly Sandwich Shop, The Juice Bar & Deli, Zoup!, Subway, Ho-Toy, Burgerim, Condado Tacos, Pure-Pressed Juicery, Winan's Coffee + Chocolate + Wine, The Main Bar, Tio's Tacos & Tequila, Sidebar Columbus, Ardenic Restaurant, Market 65, Starbucks, Plaza Restaurant and Lounge

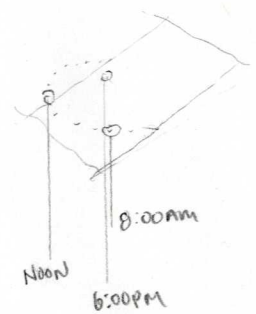
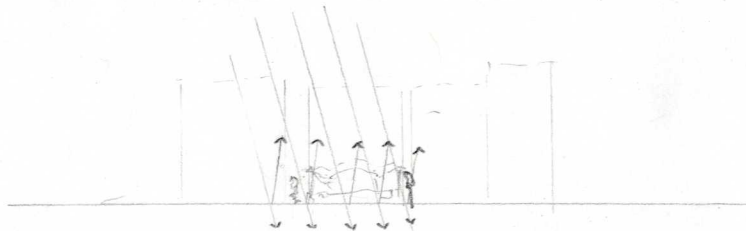
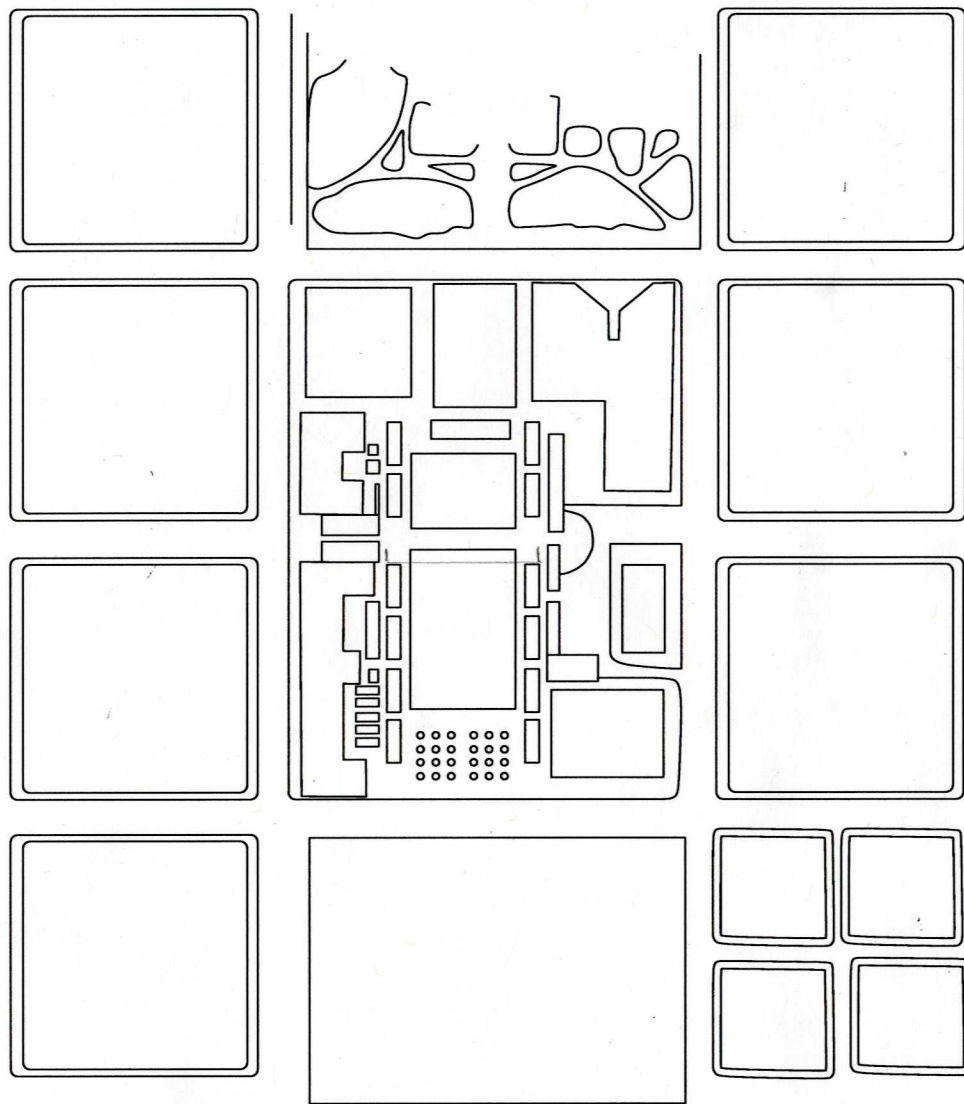


program breakdown

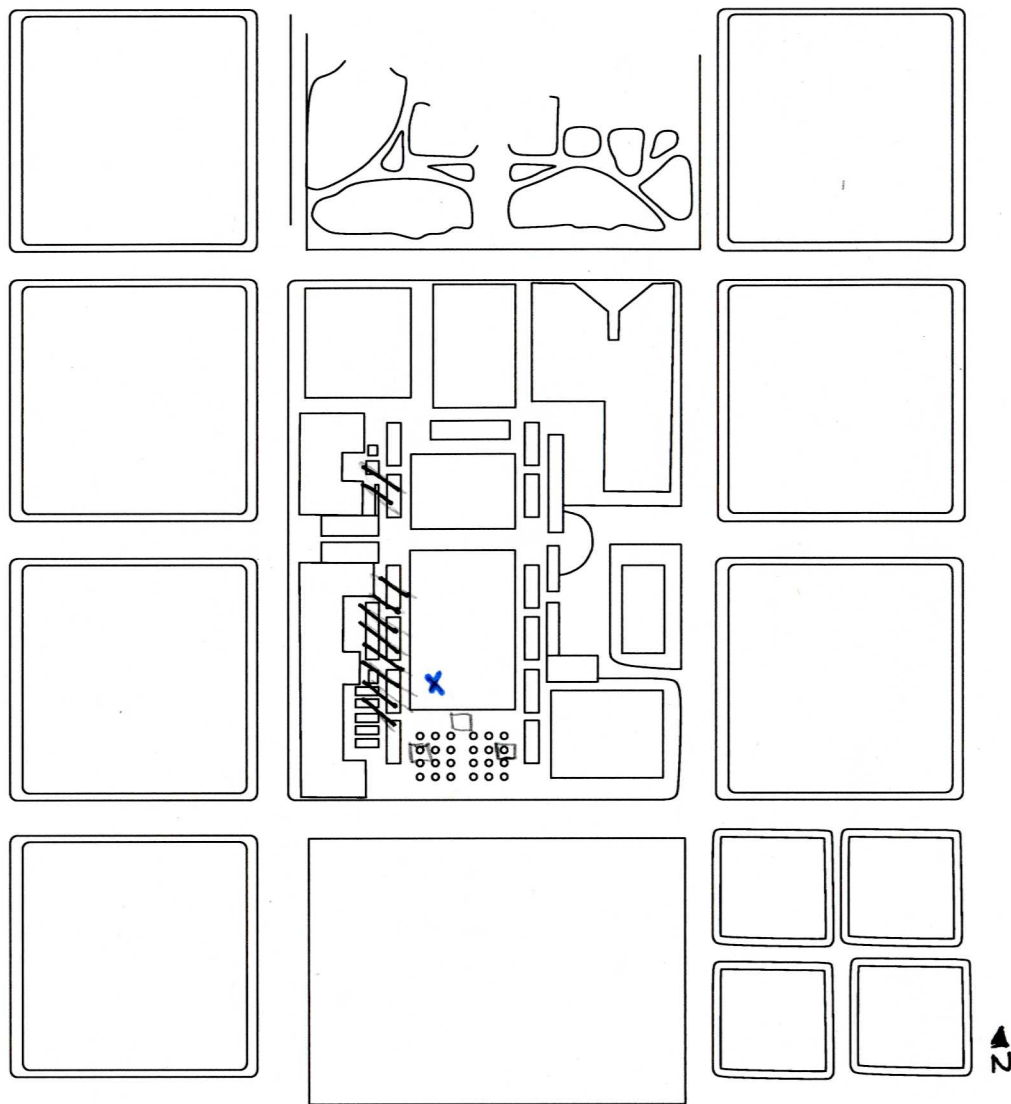


COLUMBUS COMMONS - CIRCULATION

Very heavy circulation across
park - seems to be used
mainly as an alternative to
walking along street.



COLUMBUS COMMONS - ALBEDO + SUN PATH



COLUMBUS COMMONS- WHERE PEOPLE STAY + WIND SHADOW

X STOPPED WHILE WALKING DOG

▨ BREAK FROM WIND- WIND DIRECTION
PRIMARY W/NW/SW



figure/ground - buildings



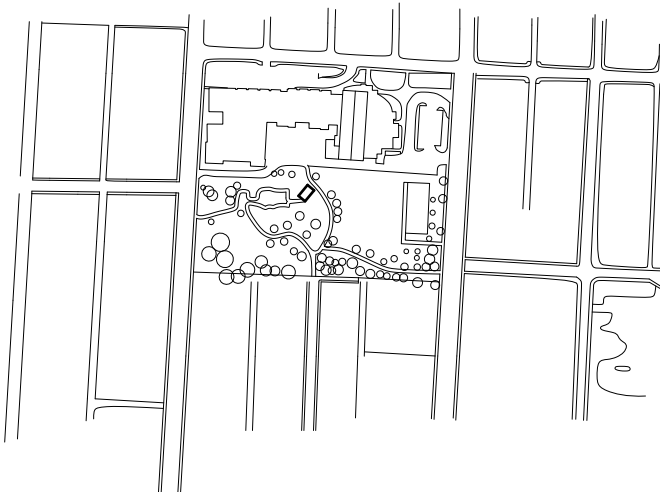
figure/ground - plantings



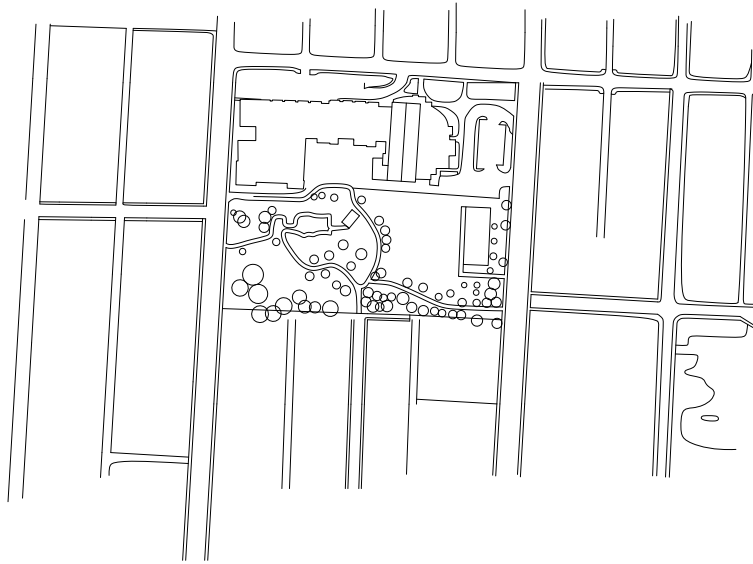
sidewalks, pathways, paving



trees and plantings



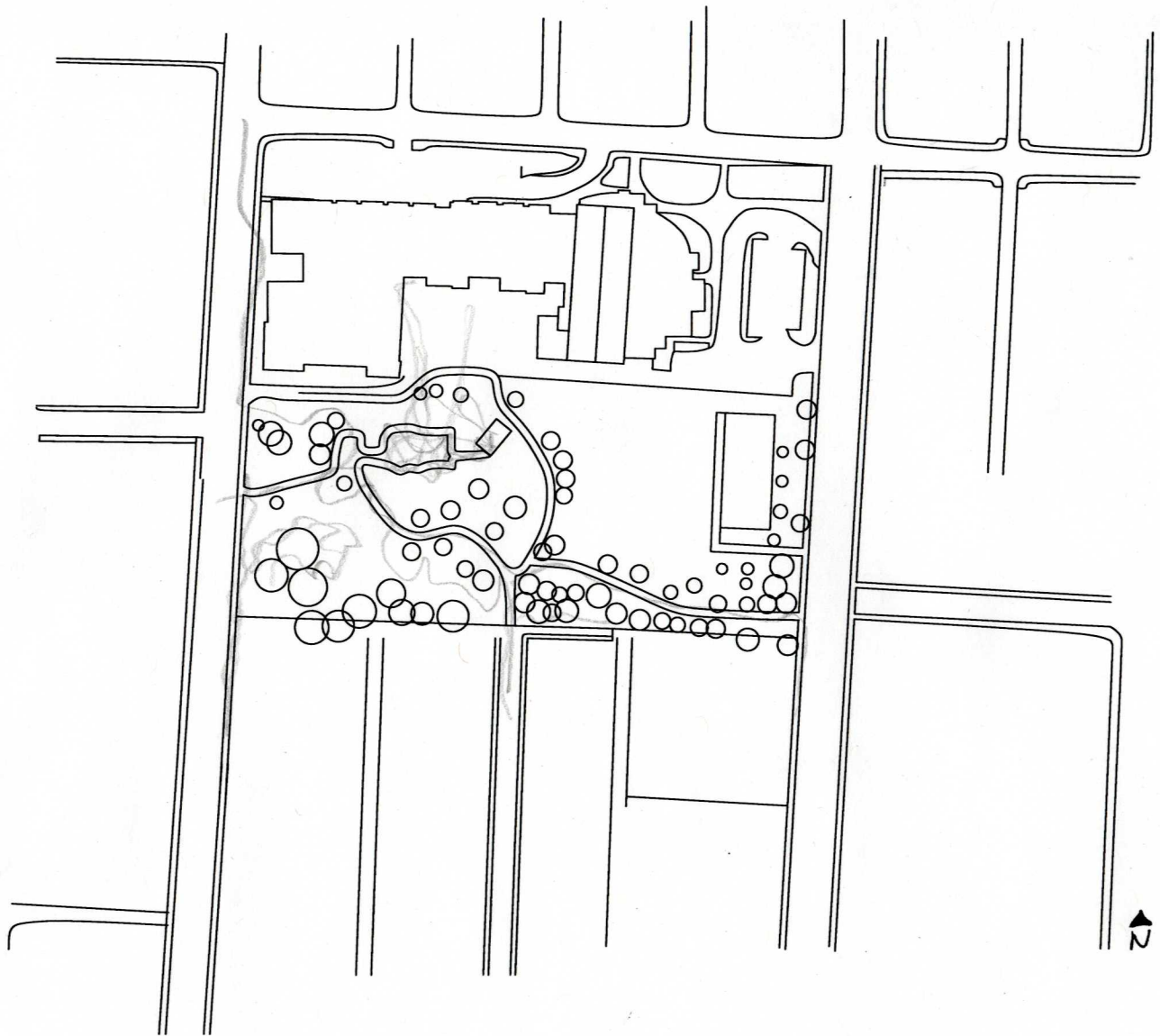
buildings/structures



no restaurants within 2 blocks of park

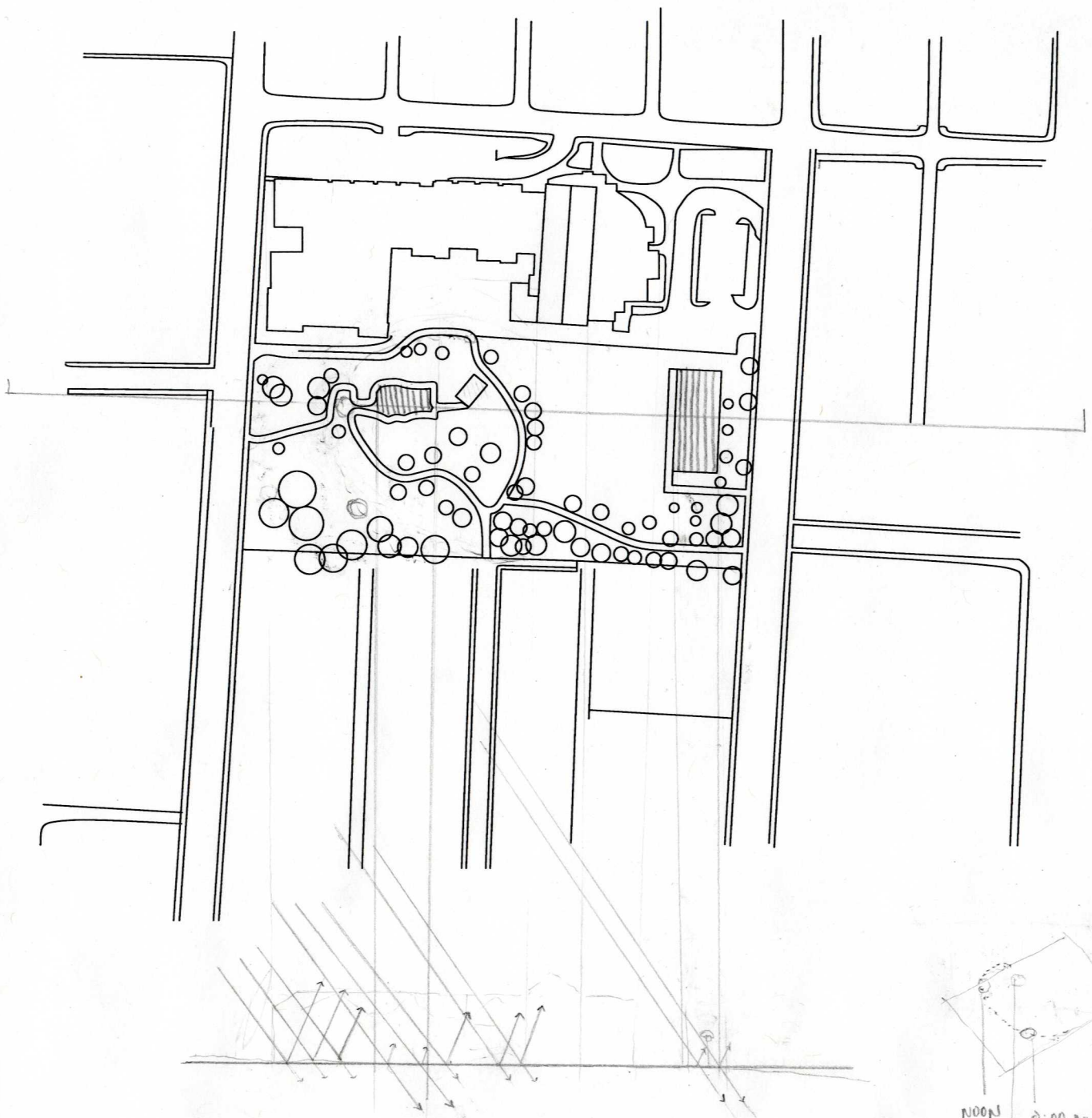


program breakdown

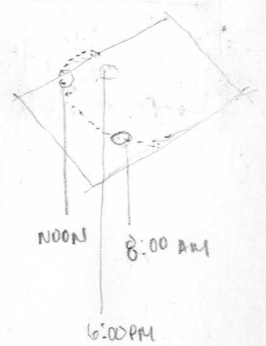


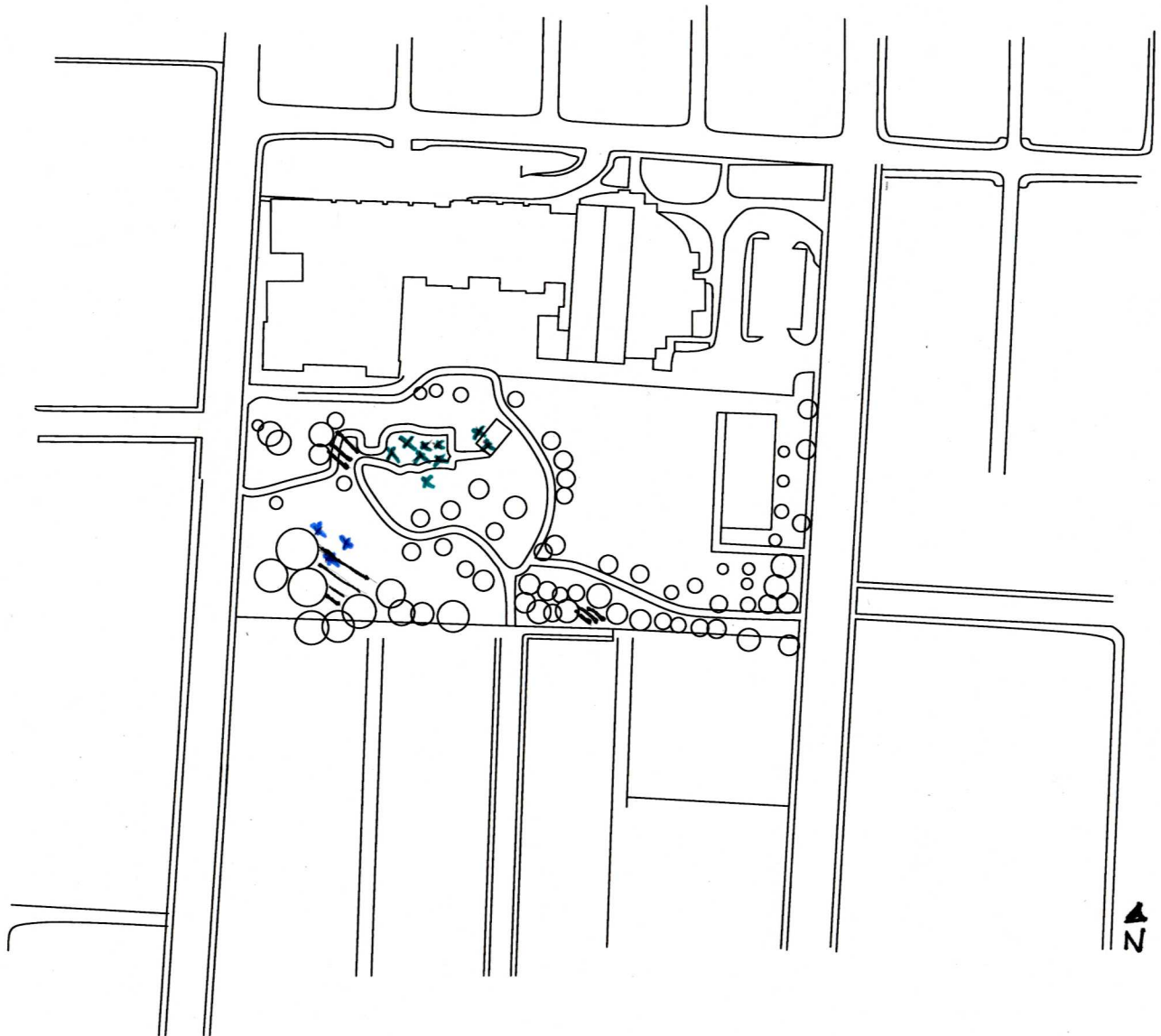
HEILAND PARK - CIRCULATION

Circulation was generally limited to cutting across park along the path, or to the playground from the school to the north.



WEINLAND PARK - ALBEDO + SUN PATH





WEINLAND PARK - WHERE PEOPLE STAY + WIND SHADOW

X PLAYING FRISBEE

X ON THE PLAYGROUND

▨ BREAK FROM WIND - WIND DIRECTION
PRIMARILY W/NW/SW

	Day	Time	Weather	Activity	Snow?			
Weinland Park	Thurs 1/10/2019		11:15 AM 27 degrees F	1 man took dog for a walk, 1 man biked through	yes, slight dusting - not covering grass			
	1/12/2019		1:00 PM 30 degrees F	3 people walked dogs through	yes, lightly snowed during, just covered grass			
	Tues 1/15/2019		12:50 PM 27 degrees F	no activity	yes, covered grass			
	Sat 1/19/2019		3:10 PM 36 degrees F	1 woman took dog for a walk	no			
	Tues 1/22/2019		11:30 AM 36 degrees F	1 man took dog for a walk	yes, light dusting			
	Sun 1/27/2019		1:00 PM 24 degrees F	no activity	yes, light dusting just covering grass in most parts			
	Tues 2/5/2019		2:00 PM 51 degrees F	no activity	no			
	Thur 2/7/2019		3:00 PM 60 degrees F	after school - young children using playground, one person walked dog	no			
	Thurs 2/14/2019		5:15 PM 48 degrees F	no activity	no			
	Tues 2/19/2019		11:05 AM 29 degrees F	no activity	yes, covered grass			
	Sun 2/24/2019		1:35 PM 55 degrees F	three men played frisbee	no			
	Tues 2/26/2019		5:00 PM 30 degrees F	no activity	no			
	Sat 3/2/2019		11:08 AM 35 degrees F	no activity	no			
	Thurs 3/7/2019		3:04 PM 30 degrees F	after school - young children using playground	yes, very light dusting in some areas			
	Tues 3/19/2019		12:00 PM 45 degrees F	no activity	no			
Columbus Commons	Thurs 1/10/2019		11:48 AM 28 degrees F	lots of people passing through E-W, one girl and her husky paused for a moment on the grass	yes, slight dusting - not covering grass entirely			
	Sat 1/12/2019		1:30 PM 30 degrees F	some people passing through E-W, two couples walked through N-S	yes, covered grass			
	Tues 1/15/2019		1:22 PM 27 degrees F	lots of people passing through E-W	yes, covered grass			
	Sat 1/19/2019		3:40 PM 34 degrees F	some people passing through E-W, one couple passed through N-S	no			
	Tues 1/22/2019		12:00 36 degrees F	lots of people passing through E-W, some people passing through N-S	yes, light dusting			
	Sun 1/27/2019		1:34 PM 24 degrees F	lots of people passing through E-W, one person passed through N-S	yes, very light dusting just barely covering grass			
	Tues 2/5/2019		2:35 PM 51 degrees F	some people passing through E-W, some people passing through N-S	no			
	Thur 2/7/2019		3:32 PM 60 degrees F	some people passing through E-W, some people passing through N-S	no			
	Thurs 2/14/2019		5:50 PM 45 degrees F	some people passing through E-W, some people passing through N-S	no			
	Tues 2/19/2019		11:35 AM 29 degrees F	some people passing through E-W, some people passing through N-S	yes, just barely covered grass			
	Sun 2/24/2019		2:03 PM 54 degrees F	some people passing through E-W	no			
	Tues 2/26/2019		5:35 PM 28 degrees F	lots of people passing through E-W, some people passing through N-S	no			
	Sat 3/2/2019		11:40 AM 35 degrees F	some people passing through E-W	no			
	Thurs 3/7/2019		3:35 PM 30 degrees F	lots of people passing through E-W	yes, very light dusting in some areas			
	Tues 3/19/2019		12:34 PM 45 degrees F	lots of people passing through E-W, some people passing through N-S	no			
Schiller Park	Thurs 1/10/2019		12:09 28 degrees F	8 people walked 8 dogs separately, 1 man playing fetch with his dog	yes, slight dusting, no covering grass in all areas			
	Sat 1/12/2019		1:51 PM 30 degrees F	3 people walked dogs separately	yes, covered grass			
	Tues 1/15/2019		1:45 PM 27 degrees F	1 person walked alone, one couple walked through, two people and their dogs stopped to talk/let the dogs play	yes, covered grass			
	Sat 1/19/2019		4:00 PM 34 degrees F	2 people walked dogs separately	no			
	Tues 1/22/2019		2:55 PM 40 degrees F	4 college-aged girls ate at a picnic table, one older woman and her dog ate at another picnic table, one man played fetch with his dog, three dogs ran around the tennis courts while their people stopped to talk	yes very light dusting			
	Sun 1/27/2019		1:53 PM 24 degrees F	three children and their parents used the playground and small hill for sledding, one man pulled a child through the park in a wagon	yes, very light dusting just covering the grass in some areas			
	Tues 2/5/2019		2:55 PM 51 degrees F	many people were walking their dogs, three dogs were playing together by the tennis courts, a group of 5 college-aged kids walked through	no			
	Thur 2/7/2019		3:53 PM 60 degrees F	many people walked their dogs, one woman played fetch with her dog	no			
	Thurs 2/14/2019		6:10 PM 40 degrees F	3 people walked their dogs through, one man walked through	no			
	Tues 2/19/2019		12:00 PM 29 degrees F	9 people walked their dogs, one couple walked through	yes, just barely covering grass			
	Sun 2/24/2019		2:20 PM 54 degrees F	many people walked their dogs, two couples walked separately, one man walked through, one group of young adults ate at a picnic table, two dogs played fetch	no			
	Tues 2/26/2019		5:53 PM 25 degrees F	2 people walked dogs through, one couple walked through	no			
	Sat 3/2/2019		12:00 35 degrees F	5 people walked dogs through, two couples walked through	no			
	Thurs 3/7/2019		4:00 PM 30 degrees F	6 people walked dogs through, one group of three girls walked through, one couple walked through	yes, very light dusting			
	Tues 3/19/2019		12:55 PM 45 degrees F	8 people walked dogs through, one couple walked through	no			